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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 12 June 2014

[*on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2014/26)*]

2014/7. Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,[1] the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,[2] the Commission for Social Development decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Recalling its resolution 2013/29 of 25 July 2013 on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/134 of 18 December 2013 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/20 of 27 September 2013[3] and its previous resolutions on ageing,

Noting that the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will take place in 2017,

Noting also the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

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* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.

[4] E/CN.5/2014/4.

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Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Bearing in mind that the second review and appraisal highlighted several major challenges faced by older persons in most regions that undermined the social, economic and cultural participation of the aged, namely, income security, access to age-appropriate health-care services, access to labour markets and social protection, protection from abuse and violence, and age discrimination,

Affirming the importance of national capacity-building as a prerequisite for successful implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and an important component in promoting and protecting the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons,

Stressing the need to continue international cooperation, including through technical assistance for countries, aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons, including the development of relevant national strategies, according to national development plans,

Recognizing the importance of integrating ageing into existing processes and work programmes of the United Nations system and its development activities and of including older persons in policy implementation and evaluation on a regular basis,

Recognizing also the essential contribution that older men and women can make to the development of their societies and communities and to the well-being of the family, which can be enhanced by supportive policies, and stressing that older persons must be full participants in national development processes and share in the benefits of development,

Emphasizing the particular risks faced by older persons of neglect, physical and psychological abuse and violence, including in emergency situations,

Recognizing that population ageing is among the contributing factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Recognizing also the vulnerability of older women to disability owing, inter alia, to gender differences in life expectancy and disease susceptibility and gender inequalities over the life course, and calling for the elimination of gender- and age-based social and economic inequalities in the provision of health-care services,

1. *Expresses concern* that when ageing has not received adequate attention it has led to older persons being overlooked by and omitted from national development plans, poverty-reduction strategies and national employment priorities;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream the rights and concerns of older persons into their policy agendas in order to adequately address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make older persons vulnerable to poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters, violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to narrow gaps between policy and practice in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] and to consider the elaboration of national implementation strategies, which include efforts to enhance national capacity-building on ageing,

inter alia, by building institutional infrastructures, investing in human resources and mobilizing financial resources;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to participate effectively in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action through, inter alia, improving data collection and sharing ideas, information and good practices;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to set time-bound benchmarks for action at the national level based on the shortcomings and priorities identified at the national and regional levels of review and appraisal, in order to enhance implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

6. *Recognizes* that ageism is a widely prevalent and prejudicial attitude that may rest on the assumption that neglect of and discrimination against older persons is acceptable and that ageism is the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination;

7. *Encourages* Member States to promote social integration and the realization of all human rights for older persons and to prevent age discrimination;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures at the national level to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and to promote their full social, economic, cultural and political participation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches, such as empowerment and participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen efforts to develop their national capacity to set priorities and address the national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal exercise, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

11. *Further encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, and increased life expectancy, with particular attention to addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to promote the participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives and ageing with dignity;

13. *Recognizes* the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for sustainable social development, and encourages Member States to reinforce the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and positive values, including by acknowledging the instructive role of grandparents;

14. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who

were abandoned or whose parents are deceased, have migrated or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

16. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other regional and subregional mechanisms, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts and to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

17. *Invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and organizations of older persons in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing;

18. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

19. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, including to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

20. *Invites* Member States and all other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

21. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the regional commissions, including their focal points on ageing, to enable them to continue their regional implementation activities;

22. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to, within their respective mandates, give greater priority to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies;

23. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons, including the issues of poverty eradication, social integration, non-discrimination and empowerment, be taken into account in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and be

given due consideration in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and other relevant stakeholders on:

(*a*) A possible theme or themes for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, to be held in 2017;

(*b*) How the review and appraisal process could better contribute to advancing the social integration and broad-based participation of older persons in development;

(*c*) How the mainstreaming of issues of ageing and older persons into the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council could be achieved;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session, in 2015, a report on the modalities of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action.

23rd plenary meeting
12 June 2014